
Your Spring Garden

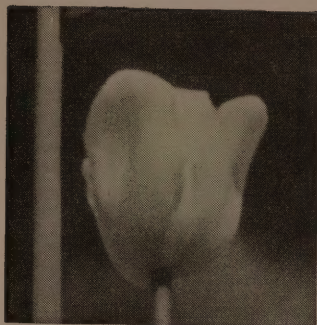
With Holland Bulbs





<i>The pleasures of gardening with bulbs</i>	1
<i>How to enjoy different kinds of tulips</i>	2
<i>All about daffodils</i>	3
<i>Fragrant hyacinths</i>	4
<i>The little bulbs</i>	5
<i>Planning three months of Spring color</i>	6
<i>How to plant your Spring bulb flowers</i>	7
<i>Spring care, and after bloom</i>	8
<i>Buying your bulbs</i>	
<i>Notes for the South</i>	9
<i>Some tips to remember</i>	
<i>A picture gallery</i>	10
<i>A planting chart</i>	12





The pleasures of gardening with bulbs

Spring will be even more welcome when you have the pleasure of flowers to look forward to. You don't need a mysteriously green thumb to have a beautiful garden of your own. Colorful tulips, fragrant hyacinths, dancing daffodils and the many lovely little flowers of the new season grow from bulbs planted in the Fall. They are the simplest of flowers to grow, easy to care for and inexpensive. All they ask is that you give them a home in the ground through the winter. They will reward you with weeks of flowers around your home all through the Spring.





How to enjoy different kinds of tulips

Tulips are a large family of flowers. One class will bloom early, another much later. They range in color from pure white to almost black, from softest pink to deepest purple. Some have oval flowers, others are almost square at the base. Some tulips look like peonies, others are elegantly like a lily. Kaufmanniana tulips are in flower alongside the earliest crocuses. Parrot tulips bear fringed petals which introduce fantasy and exuberance into the gentle month of May. Tulips are so many and varied that some varieties are best planted to grow up as if they were wild flowers, or casually in clumps in an informal rock garden. Others take their place with proverbial dignity in the most formal flower beds. There is a tulip for every taste. Select your varieties depending on when they bloom, how tall they are, and how their colors and shapes fit into your Spring scheme.





All about daffodils

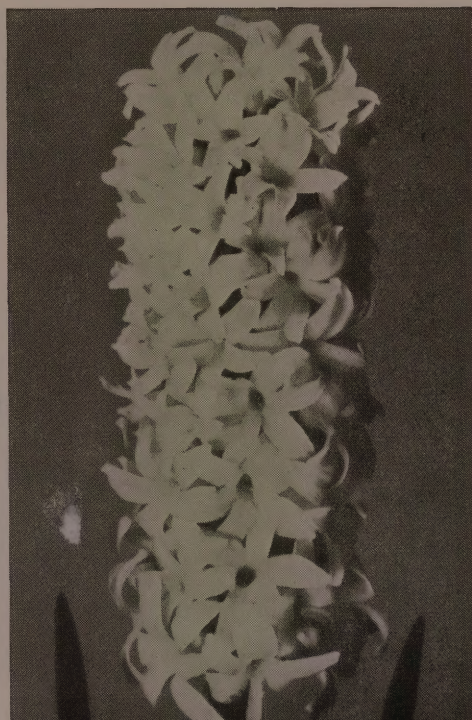
“Narcissus” is of course the botanical name for all the family; we call them daffodils or jonquils, naming them familiarly with the name we came to know them by as children. These are among the first flowers to bloom in the Spring, and they go on flowering well into May. First there are the trumpet daffodils, followed by medium-cupped flowers with their orange or scarlet cups set off against yellow or white petals. In mid-season, scented jonquils, with their clusters of blooms, and fragrant double narcissi release the clean smells of Spring. Later, the scarlet-and-green-crowned Poet’s Narcissus takes its delicate place alongside late tulips in the May garden. Once planted, daffodils go on for years, many varieties thriving and increasing in numbers where they have reasonably good soil and room for growth. There are so many kinds of daffodils that a little thought in choosing in the Fall will fill the house and garden with an abundance of them in the Spring.





Fragrant hyacinths

Their unmistakable fragrance, vivid colors and assured stature give hyacinths a favored place in every Spring garden. They are dignified, stately flowers. The dense spikes of delicate bell-like florets, strongly supported on sturdy stems, suit them to any garden. They can be used to create symmetrical designs that fit into formal patterns, or they are equally at home when planted in groups of three or five or more. They are fine for planting with other flowers, especially tulips and narcissus. Hyacinths are white, yellow, red or many shades of pink and blue, but most, and best of all, they fill the air with the sweet and fresh smell of Spring. Their perfume, if they are planted in outdoor window boxes, will be wafted into the room with every fresh breeze. In the garden, hyacinths will go on flowering through several Springs if planted an inch or two deeper than usual.





The little bulbs

They are smaller than the bulbs of tulips, hyacinths or daffodils and are usually planted earlier in the Fall. The most popular probably is the crocus. Other equally appealing little bulbs you should get to know better are: *Galanthus* (Snowdrop), *Chionodoxa* (Glory-of-the-Snow), *Scilla* (Squill), *Muscari* (Grape Hyacinth), *Eranthis* (Winter Aconite). They have as many uses as their varied forms suggest. They grow to different heights, and bloom at different times, from the end of winter until the early warmth of summer. Often they are found tucked away in back pages of catalogues or odd corners of the store, under the heading of "miscellaneous bulbs." But they will amply reward anybody who takes them and tries them, especially as so many will multiply and spread without thought or care from the gardener, like lilies of the field.





Planning three months of Spring color

Selecting bulb flowers with an eye to their blooming time lets you have flowers from early in Spring until late in the season. The snowdrop and crocus arrive first. The bare trees are still unleaved when Fosteriana tulips, golden narcissi and deep blue muscari are spilling color into the garden. Before the end of April, hyacinths are breathing their perfume into the soft Spring air, and the early tulips begin to add new colors to the scene. In mid-season, Triumph and Darwin Hybrid tulips bridge the time between April and May; then Parrot, Lily-flowered, Cottage, Double Late, Darwin and Breeder tulips unfold into bloom in an exciting array of colors and forms. Dutch iris flower well into June, completing the parade of bulb flowers that began three months earlier when the winds of March and rains of April were still to come.





How to plant your Spring bulb flowers

One way to plant bulbs is to take out the top six inches of soil, loosen the soil below, level off the surface and set the bulbs in place. Then the bulbs are covered with the top soil which was removed. This method is fine for planting garden beds or any large area where shrubs are not present. The more common method perhaps is simply to dig an individual hole for each bulb with a trowel, set the bulb in, and cover it. With either method the site should be well watered after planting. Larger bulbs are planted six inches deep and six inches apart. Little bulbs are planted three inches deep and three inches apart. Any well-drained soil is suitable; very heavy or extremely light sandy soils can be corrected by forking in compost or peat. All Spring-flowering bulbs are planted in the Fall, from mid-September until the ground freezes for the winter.



Spring care, and after bloom

Once planted, Spring-flowering bulbs require little further attention. A sprinkling of bonemeal around the plants in the Spring will feed them when bulbs are to be left undisturbed in the ground for several years. Flower heads should be removed as soon as petals begin to fade, but foliage must not be cut back until it is completely dry and brown. When cutting flowers for indoor bouquets, take only one leaf to a flower; this leaves sufficient foliage to produce the food that will be stored in the bulb until it is used by next year's flower. If bulbs are dug up after the blooming season, only the largest should be kept for replanting in the Fall. They should be stored through the warm months in a cool, dry place.

Buying your bulbs

Bulbs imported from Holland have passed rigid examinations before they were allowed to leave their native country. The Dutch government permits export only of those bulbs big enough to produce full-sized flowers the first year after they are planted. They are inspected before they leave Holland by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as Dutch authorities, and certified to be healthy and free of all plant pests and diseases. An imported Holland flower bulb is a good bulb. There are no "bargains," and you are well advised to beware of suspiciously low prices. The real bargain of growing bulb flowers is their moderate cost in relation to the pleasure they give you in the Spring.



Notes for the South

All instructions have been written with the temperate zone of the U.S. in mind. In Southern states, bulbs are planted as much as two months later, and flowers bloom in the Spring two weeks earlier, or more. Bulbs should be stored at the bottom of the refrigerator at an even temperature of 40°-45° until planting time. They should be planted in a shady position. Plantings should be kept moist.

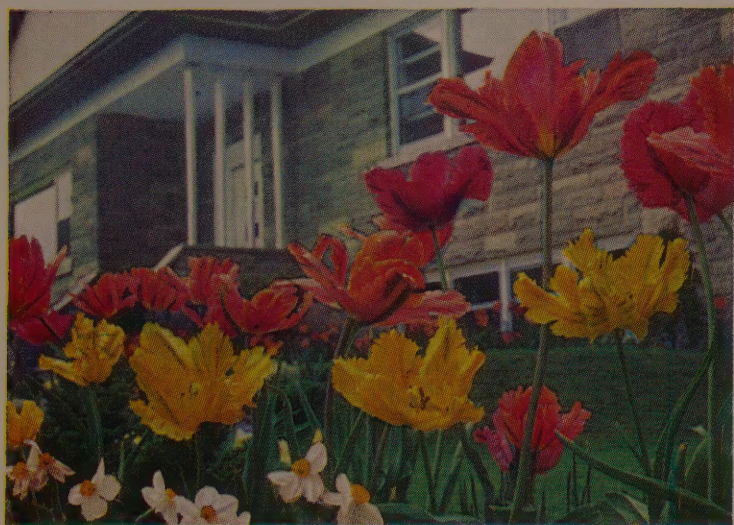
Some tips to remember

Although Spring-flowering bulbs are hardy, winter protection in very cold areas can be provided with a ground cover of peat, dried bracken or branches of evergreens over dried leaves. Such a cover is helpful also in areas where winters are not so cold, but where temperatures fluctuate sharply, resulting in heaving of the ground which could tear and damage roots. These winter ground covers should not be put on until after the first frost, and should be carefully removed in Spring as soon as new foliage is seen to be well along.

Tulips do not require direct sunlight, and, in fact, tend to last longer and grow taller when planted in shade. Bear in mind that blooming time is also affected by the planting location; north, south, east or west plantings come into bloom at different times. A planting close to the base of the house where heat will carry to the plants will flower earlier than one away from the house.







Planting Chart



FLOWERS in order of appear- ance in garden	FLOWERING TIME	HEIGHT (in inches)	HOW TO PLANT (in inches)
<i>Galanthus</i> (Snowdrop)	March 1-15	4	3 deep 3 apart
<i>Eranthis</i> (Winter Aconite)	March 1-15	4	3 deep 3 apart
<i>Crocus</i>	March 15-30	5	3-4 deep 3-4 apart
<i>Scilla sibirica</i> (Siberian Squill)	March 15-30	4-6	3 deep 3 apart
<i>Iris reticulata</i>	March 15-30	4-6	4 deep 4 apart
<i>Chionodoxa</i> (Glory-of-the-Snow)	March 15- April 10	3-4	3 deep 1-2 apart
<i>Puschkinia libanotica</i>	March 20- April 10	4	3 deep 3 apart
Tulip species: Kaufmanniana, Fosteriana, etc.	April 1-30	5-15	5 deep 5 apart
<i>Muscari</i> (Grape Hyacinth)	April 10-25	4-6	3 deep 3 apart



FLOWERS in order of appear- ance in garden	FLOWERING TIME	HEIGHT (in inches)	HOW TO PLANT (in inches)
Trumpet Daffodil	April 10-25	18-20	6 deep 6 apart
Tulip : Single Early and Double Early	April 15-30	10-14	6 deep 6 apart
Hyacinth	April 15-30	8-12	6 deep 6 apart
Medium-cupped daffodil	April 15-30	16-18	6 deep 6 apart
Tulip : Triumph, Darwin Hybrid	April 25- May 5	16-28	6 deep 6 apart
Daffodil : short-cupped, Poet's Narcissus, jonquil	April 25- May 5	16-18	6 deep 6 apart
Tulip : Parrot, Cottage, Lily-flowered, Double Late, Darwin, Breeder	May 5-20	20-34	6 deep 6 apart
Scilla campanulata (Spanish Squill)	May 5-20	10-12	4 deep 3 apart
Dutch Iris	June 1-20	18-24	5 deep 4 apart



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